



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

85

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/993,221	11/19/2001	Mary Ellen McCaffrey	705444US1	6894
24938	7590	01/27/2005	EXAMINER	
DAIMLERCHRYSLER INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL CORPORATION			CHEN, SHIN HON	
CIMS 483-02-19			ART UNIT	
800 CHRYSLER DR EAST			PAPER NUMBER	
AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326-2757			2131	

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/993,221

Applicant(s)

MCCAFFREY ET AL.

Examiner

Shin-Hon Chen

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-10 have been examined.

#### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 2-9 are objected to because of the following informalities: the apparatus should be the system. Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berson U.S. Pat. No. 6532459 (hereinafter Berson) in view of Brikho U.S. Pub. No. 20020113122 (hereinafter Brikho).

5. As per claim 1 and 10, Berson discloses a computer-implemented system for virtually linking a plurality of unrelated database systems, authenticating core person data input into said plurality of unrelated database systems (Berson: column 2 lines 28-67), and managing through business rules said core person data (Berson: column 2 lines 46-52), the system comprising: a person data repository for storing the core person data for all persons requiring visibility in anyone of said plurality of unrelated database systems wherein said core person data comprises a

Art Unit: 2131

person name and birth date identifier (Berson: column 2 lines 28-67); a controller module connected to said person data repository and arranged to apply a set of business rules for restricting access, input, and modification of said core person data by said plurality of unrelated database systems (Berson: column 3 line 66 – column 4 line 2); an access control module connected between a user interface of any one of said plurality of unrelated database systems and said controller module wherein said access control module monitors said user interface for input, querying or modification of said core person data and imposes said business rules when an attempt is made to input, query or modify said core person data (Berson: column 4 line 2 – column 5 line 65); whereby said core person data is authenticated and maintained for said plurality of unrelated database systems as a virtual relational database of the core person data (Berson: column 2 lines 28-67). Berson does not explicitly disclose an authentication module connected to said controller module for authenticating as unique the addition of a person to said core person data by the person name and birth date identifier. However, Brikho discloses checking if a record exists in a database prior to adding a new entry (Brikho: [0058]). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to check whether a record exists in a database prior to adding a new entry. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Brikho within the system of Berson because it saves database space by avoiding redundant storage of data.

6. As per claim 2, Berson as modified discloses the system of claim 1. Berson as modified further discloses wherein said person data repository comprises a database of said core person

Art Unit: 2131

data connected to said business rules determinator (Berson: column 2 lines 46-52 and column 3 line 67 – column 4 line 2).

7. As per claim 3, Berson as modified discloses the system of claim 1. Berson as modified further discloses wherein said person data repository comprises a relational database consisting of a subset of said plurality of unrelated database systems (Berson: column 2 lines 28-43; column 3 lines 54-57).

8. As per claim 4, Berson as modified discloses the system of claim 1. Berson as modified further discloses wherein said authentication module utilizes a search algorithm to determine if said person exists in said person data repository wherein said search algorithm attempts to match said person's name, birth month and birth day with names and birth data already in the person data repository (Berson: column 5 lines 60-64).

9. As per claim 6, Berson as modified discloses the system of claim 1. Berson as modified further discloses wherein said business rules comprise a set of contextual rules for allowing and/or disallowing the access, input, and modification of a component of said person data in said person data repository (Berson: column 2 lines 39-52; column 3 line 66 – column 4 line 2).

10. As per claim 7, Berson as modified discloses the system of claim 1. Berson as modified further discloses wherein said access control module comprises a program that is resident in the

Art Unit: 2131

memory containing said user interface for said plurality of unrelated database systems but is apart from said user interface (Berson: column 4 lines 3-32).

11. As per claim 8, Berson as modified discloses the system of claim 1. Berson as modified further discloses wherein a system interface is connected to said access control module said system interface creating a gateway between said plurality of unrelated database system and said person data repository wherein said gateway translated the protocol of said plurality of unrelated database systems to the protocol necessary to access, query and modify said person data repository (Berson: column 2 lines 39-43 and column 3 lines 54-58).

12. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berson in view of Brikho and further in view of Rippich U.S. Pub. No. 20020099701 (hereinafter Rippich).

13. As per claim 5, Berson as modified discloses the system of claim 4. Berson as modified does not explicitly disclose wherein said search algorithm performs a soundex search of the name of said person. However, Rippich discloses using soundex to search for the person (Rippich: [0009]). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Rippich within the combination of Berson-Brikho because soundex is a searching method that can improve the efficiency for locating information.

Art Unit: 2131

14. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berson in view of and further in view of Sheu et al. 'A New Architecture for Integration of CORBA and OODB' (hereinafter Sheu).

15. As per claim 9, Berson as modified discloses the system of claim 8. Berson as modified does not explicitly disclose wherein said gateway is based on the CORBA protocol. However, Sheu discloses using CORBA as a communication gateway between databases (Sheu: all). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Sheu within the combination of Berson-Brikho because CORBA is well known in the art to allow programs at different locations and developed by different vendors to communicate in a network through an "interface broker."

### ***Conclusion***

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bjorksten et al. U.S. Pub. No. 20030097451 discloses personal data repository.

Prompt et al. U.S. Pub. No. 20010034733 discloses system for providing access to databases via directories and other hierarchical structures and interfaces.

Barrett et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6581059 discloses digital persona for providing access to personal information.

Lucas et al. U.S. Pub. No. 20030065649 discloses method for database queries and information delivery.

Art Unit: 2131

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shin-Hon Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3789. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SC

Shin-Hon Chen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2131



AV2131

11/24/05